

Appl. No. 09/574,692
Amdt. dated March 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on September 11, 2003. A petition for a 3-month extension of time is attached so that the due date is to and including March 11, 2004. Entry of this Amendment is requested.

In this Amendment, claims 57-60 are added. These claims are dependent claims and track the language of the previously submitted claims. Claims 55 and 57 are amended so that they are in independent form. Other claims have been amended to change their dependencies.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the first paragraph of the application needs to be updated. In response, the first paragraph of the application has been updated. Applicants note that this application is a divisional application of Application No. 09/353,555, filed on July 14, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part application of Application No. 09/115,455, filed July 14, 1998. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the language in claims 46 and 55 and rejects these claims as indefinite.

With respect to claim 46, the Examiner states the recitation of "adapted for" is not clear as to how the functional group has been modified for covalent attachment to a polynucleotide.

In response, the language "adapted for" is omitted from independent claims 55 and 57 and the language "capable of" is used in its place.

With respect to claim 55, the Examiner states it is not clear what "molecular species" is being referred to.

In response, the words "molecular species" are omitted from independent claim 55.

As the indefiniteness rejections have been addressed, withdrawal of the same is requested.

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At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 46-52, 54, 56, and 57 as anticipated by Barrett et al. At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 46-52, 54, and 56 over Sundberg et al.

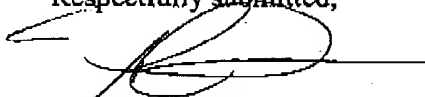
In response, Applicants have canceled the claims that are rejected over Barrett et al. and Sundberg et al. By canceling the rejected claims, Applicants do not admit that the rejections are proper, but are doing so to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Claims 53 and 55 were not rejected over prior art. Since these claims are put into independent form, and since the remaining claims are dependent claims, Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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